

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 27, 2017

The Honorable Seema Verma
Administrator
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Administrator Verma:

We write today to urge your agency to review the application submitted by Keefe Memorial Hospital, located in Cheyenne Wells, Colorado, to become a Critical Access Hospital (CAH).

In order to receive a CAH designation, a hospital must adhere to the following primary eligibility requirements:

- Have 25 or fewer acute care inpatient beds;
- Be located more than 35 miles from another hospital;
- Maintain an annual average length of stay of 96 hours or less for acute care patients; and
- Provide 24/7 emergency care services.

Keefe Memorial Hospital meets these criteria according to the Colorado Rural Health Center. Additionally, according to the CMS database, the three closest hospitals are:

- Kit Carson County Memorial Hospital – 37.4 miles
- Weisbrod Memorial Hospital – 44.0 miles
- Lincoln Community Hospital and Nursing Home – 71.6 miles
- Prowers Medical Center – 75.5 miles

Keefe Memorial Hospital has an essential role in ensuring that individuals residing in this underserved community have access to care. We urge your agency to give this application your full and fair consideration to safeguard these services and protect the individuals residing in this rural area.

Sincerely,



Cory Gardner
United States Senator



Ken Buck
Member of Congress